

# Costume guide

Our plot is set in 1899. If you do want to get dressed up, the following guidelines might help.

## Wealthy Women

### Daytime

*Dresses* were smooth over the hips, long and bell-shaped and usually had a train. They were high in the neck and finished with ruching or a large bow. Lots of lace was worn, particularly on petticoats. Very large 'leg of mutton' sleeves.

*Hats* were rather small and perched squarely on top of head.

### Evening

*Dresses* were the same shape as in daytime but low cut. Colours were very bright.

*Gloves* were long, *fans* were large and feathered, and *jewellery* was plentiful.

### Sports Clothes

More adventurous young women were starting to take part in sport. For example, the increase in bicycling led to the introduction of wide *knickerbockers*. These caused uproar amongst the traditional society.

## Poorer Women

Would still wear lots of *layers* and *petticoats*, with *shawls* around the waist and shoulders and sturdy *boots*. Even the poorest would wear a *hat* of some kind.

## Wealthy Men

### Daytime

*Frock coats* or *morning coats*, *lounge suits* of blue serge or patterned *tweeds* and brightly patterned *waistcoats*. Colourful *blazers* were also worn. *Collars* were stiff and detachable.

*Hats* were worn outdoors, usually *top hats* or *bowlers*.

### Evening

*Tail coats* for formal functions, but *smoking jackets* when ladies had retired.

### Sports clothes

For outdoor pursuits and shooting: *Norfolk jackets* (belt and vertical pleats) and loose *knee-breeches* with *gaiters* to protect against wet and mud, etc.

For cricket: similar to today but with optional coloured shirt.

### Military

*Uniforms* were widely worn on grand occasions, as many rich men were members of part-time volunteer regiments

## Poorer Men

*Waistcoats*, *collarless shirts*, *jackets*, strong *boots* or *clogs*. *Caps* were very much associated with the working man.

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For other ideas, try looking at films like 'My Fair Lady' or 'Mrs Brown', or the works of artists and illustrators of the period.